

Notes on the specimens sent by Mr. Collins.

"Red Bay" (word nos. XVI) = *Laurus Carolinensis*,

"White Bay" (" XVII) - " " - a variety

with narrower leaves, whiter underneath. It is mentioned as such in Elliott's Botany. He says this is generally a shrub.

"Black Laurel" (XVIII) = *Gordonia Lasianthus*

Shelby Bay is the name it is generally known by. It bears a large and handsome, white flower, like that of a *Magnolia* somewhat.

Rosemary-leaf Pine" (IX) = *Pinus variabilis*, L. *P. mitis*, Max.

Yellow or Blank " (X) = *Pinus rigida*.

Old field Pine - (XI) = *Pinus Tada*.

Caraway Pine (XII) = *Pinus Abertina*

Wandsworth, May 14th 1842

My Dear Sir

The above memoranda have been lying before me for some days, during which I have been far too busy to attend to them, or to set about sending the same or the two fine slices of Cypress

which, from Mr. Collins & your kindness
was pressed. But this morning came
your letter of the 8th - for which I heartily
thank you, and am glad indeed to answer
any of your queries; - trusting to induce you to send
many more of them, as well as to answer many
I may from time to time propound to you.

I can well believe that the study of the Vepes-
table world around you may be a pleasant and
useful occupation for some of your leisure
hours; and I shall not hesitate to ask you to do
everything for me that I can think of; - trusting
that you will not inconvenience yourself in these
matters, and knowing that you will not
let them interfere with your higher duties.

I am so overwhelmed with scientific, technical
studies that I have little time to get together
the popular information I need. Of this there
is much that is valuable in your communica-
tions; which I carefully file away, with my notes
for report on Trees, for future use.

I shall be very glad for all the information

you can give me about the mode of collecting
herpatic - the time of doing it - the processes
it goes through &c. &c.

I am glad that you detected the Black Laurel
How curious that it should not be known by
the name of Loblolly Bay. It is its com-
mon name a little farther South. A small
piece of the plank of this will still be desirable
to show the character & value of the timber. The
reason I did not ask for Loblolly Bay among
the other ones, was that I had a specimen
before from South Carolina; but by no means
so fine a one as that found in one of the boxes.

All these specimens are admirable; and the
Cyperus ones are excellent and well selected. Please
still look out for any that are very remarkable; -
also for pieces of timber dug up from a considerable
depth.

The specimen of Pyrus arbutifolia is the var.
erythrocarpa. The downy-leaved one. I did not know
it grew so high. It is always low with us.

The "Wild Orange", of which a specimen is enclosed
is Styrax Americanum (S. glabrum, Michx.). You
will find it described in Elliott. I hope soon to

begin printing the 2^d Vol. of Flora of North
America which will also comprise this family.

Even the piece of wood which I can give a
name given at. I suspect it is Naucleoxylum
Carolinianum, the Southern Brickly Ash.

Will you notice the real Ashes this
year, and make me specimens ^{with} of the leaves and
fruit of all the kinds you find. They are
little known & very difficult.

My friend Prof. DeMeuse of Holland asks me
for cones of all our Pines and other Coniferae.
This indeed I want near myself. If convenient
please gather a goodly number (say 20, ripe and
unspined cones of all the sorts you can lay
hands on, in the best to me when a good opportunity
arrives.

He ^{also} wants specimens of the species of Myrica
that I can see which is the Bowl Gum. I should
much like to have one of the "trays" 3 or 4 feet long!!

How old is a cypress 12 feet in diameter?

With much regard

Your obliged friend

Asa Gray